



## About the Keep Warm Illinois campaign...

*Home heating fuel prices are expected to reach record levels this winter due to rising demand and recent disruptions in natural gas production. That's why it's critically important that you try to reduce your home heating bills by being smart about your energy use. To help everyone in Illinois conserve energy and stay warm and safe this winter, Governor Blagojevich has launched the "Keep Warm Illinois" campaign.*

*Learn more about energy conservation, the state's energy assistance programs, and other useful resources by visiting our website ([www.keepwarm.illinois.gov](http://www.keepwarm.illinois.gov)) or call our toll-free number (877-411-WARM). And remember to conserve energy, save money, and keep warm!*



# Tips for Saving Energy and Keeping Warm



***Check out the tips below to find out ways that you can help reduce energy loss from your home and reduce your utility bills this winter!***

## No-Cost Ways to Save Energy and Money

**Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees.** For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save an average of 3 percent on heating costs. Wear warm clothing like a sweater and set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the day and evening, health permitting. Setting the thermostat back to 55 degrees when leaving home for an extended time can save you 5-20 percent of your heating costs (heat pumps should only be set back two degrees to prevent unneeded use of backup strip heating).

**Close off heating ducts to unused rooms, or unoccupied areas of your home.** This helps confine the heat to the areas of your home that you are using.

**Replace or clean furnace filters once a month.** Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Now is also the time for a furnace "tune-up." Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will reduce energy use, saving up to 5 percent of heating costs.

**Reduce hot water temperature.** Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120°, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11 percent of water heating costs. Insulate the first five feet of pipe coming out of the top of your water heater or the whole length until the pipe goes into the wall if that is less than five feet. Pipe insulation is available from your hardware store.

**Perform a home energy audit.** Visit <http://hes.lbl.gov> for an excellent web-based do-it-yourself energy audit tool to identify energy efficiency improvements.

**Use cold water when washing clothes.** About 16 percent of an average home energy bill goes just for heating water. Most detergents clean well in cooler temperatures. Keep clothes dryer free of lint and inspect dryer vent to be sure it is free of obstructions.

**Don't waste hot water.** Adjust load size on washer to fit actual load. Set small loads to low water level to save water and energy.

**Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath to reduce hot water use.**

# KEEP WARM ILLINOIS



**Let the sun in.** Open drapes and shades on the sunny side of your house to help warm the home during the day. Close drapes and shades at night to cut heat loss.

**Remove window air conditioning units for the winter.** If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it for the winter months to prevent heat from escaping through and around the unit. If it cannot be moved, buy a cover to prevent drafts.

**Close your flue.** Always make sure the fireplace damper seals tightly and remains closed except when a fire is burning or smoldering in the fireplace. Also shut fire place doors if installed.

**Flip the switch.** Turn off all appliances and equipment when not in use: lights, TVs, VCRs or DVDs, computers, other electronics.

**Use your ceiling fan.** Ceiling fans help keep you comfortable not only in the summer but in the winter as well. Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down into the room. Fans should turn clockwise in the summer and counter-clockwise in the winter.

## **Keep vent space clean and clear.**

Make sure heating registers, vents and cold air returns are not blocked by draperies, furniture or rugs. These should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or a broom.

## **Low-Cost Ways to Save Energy and Money**

**Caulk is cheap.** On windy days, feel around windows, doors, and exterior walls near the floor, electrical outlets or plumbing penetrations. Seal up your windows and doors with caulking and weatherstripping to ensure that you're not wasting energy on heat that escapes through leaks to the outdoors. Caulk works best on small gaps. Your hardware store should have products to close the larger gaps. Use low expansion foam product to seal larger openings.

**Insulate your pipes.** Add pre-cut pipe insulation to exposed pipes going into your water heater – it is cheap and easy to install. If you're starting with an uninsulated tank, the energy savings should pay for the improvements in just a few months. Seal your duct work.

**Seal your duct work.** While duct tape works well on lots of things it often

fails when used on ductwork! Use duct mastic (a gooey substance applied with a paintbrush) to seal all exposed ductwork joints in areas such as the attic, crawlspace, or basement. Insulate ducts in unconditioned areas to improve your heating system's efficiency and your own comfort. Metal duct tape is another option, but be sure to clean dust from areas to be sealed.

**Use plastic window kits to insulate your windows.** In the winter, storm windows can reduce your heat loss by 25-50 percent. As an alternative, you can improve your windows temporarily with plastic sheeting installed on the inside.

**Install an ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat.** Programmable thermostats automatically set back the temperature when you are asleep or away from home.

**Change a Light.** Replace incandescent light bulbs with comparable compact fluorescent lamps.

## **Comprehensive Ways to Save Energy and Money**

**Check your insulation.** Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area. Insulation is measured in R-values — the higher the R-value, the better your walls and roof will resist the transfer of heat. If your

attic has ample insulation and your home still feels drafty and cold in the winter or too warm in the summer, chances are you need to add insulation to the exterior walls as well. This is a more expensive measure that usually requires a contractor, but it may be worth the cost.

**Keep your furnace operating efficiently.** Have your heating or cooling equipment checked each season by a qualified technician to make sure it is operating properly. Heating and cooling account for about half of the energy costs for the average home. Ask them to perform temperature-rise check to be sure your furnace is operating in the range set by the manufacturer.

**Learn more about the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program to see if you qualify.** The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income households lower energy costs by providing free of charge a range of home weatherization services, including insulating attics and walls and ensuring that heating systems are safe and in good working order. Visit [www.keepwarm.Illinois.gov](http://www.keepwarm.Illinois.gov) or call 877-411-WARM for more information.

**Look for the ENERGY STAR.** Consider ENERGY STAR labeled products when you are replacing old appliances or purchasing new ones. Products in more than 40 categories are eligible for the ENERGY STAR. They use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment. Ask for the ENERGY STAR.